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The Society

Maine Historical Society

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THE SOCIETY

The 154th Annual Meeting of the Maine Historical Society was held in Rockland on June 12, 1976, and was attended by 109 members and guests. The morning business meeting was graciously hosted by the Fransworth Library and Art Museum and its director, C. Gardner Lane. The members of the Society were thus afforded a unique opportunity to view the Museum's outstanding art collections.

At the business meeting John W. Hakola of Orono, Donald L. Philbrick of Portland, Roger B. Ray of Cape Elizabeth, Earle G. Shettleworth of Augusta, Herbert T. Silsby of Ellsworth, Robert B. Williamson of Augusta, and J. Weston Walch of Portland, were elected to three year terms on the Standing Committee. Officers for the current year are: Martial D. Maling, President; Earle G. Shettleworth, Vice President; Harry W. Rowe, Secretary; and Arthur T. Forrestall, Treasurer.

In addition to transacting the usual business of the Society, the Meeting also voted to adopt a revision of the Society's Bylaws, prepared by a committee under the chairmanship of Martial D. Maling. Rising mailing costs prohibit a general distribution of the new Bylaws but copies are available to members upon request.

SCHEDULED EVENTS

Maine Academic Historians

The public is cordially invited to attend a series of three symposiums to be sponsored in October by the Maine Academic Historians. Funded by the Maine State Bicentennial Commission, the series will feature Dr. Bernard Bailyn as principal speaker.

Professor Bailyn, one of the foremost authorities on the American Revolution, is Winthrop Professor of History at Harvard University. A recipient of both the Bancroft Award and the Pulitzer Prize in 1968 for his book, *The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution*, Bailyn recently has been awarded another Pulitzer for his biography, *The Ordeal of Thomas Hutchinson*. He is also the author of *New England Merchants in the 17th Century*.

The first symposium, "1776: A Year of Challenge—A World Transformed," will be held on the evening of October 21st at 7:30 P.M. in Luther Bonney Auditorium on the Portland campus of the University of Maine at Portland-Gorham.

The second symposium, "How Could Britain Lose," will be held on the evening of October 22nd at 7:30 P.M. in the auditorium of the University of Maine at Augusta.

The third and final symposium, "The Impact of the Revolution on American Political Culture," will be held on the evening of October 23rd at 7:30 P.M. in Room 101 of the English and Mathematics building on the campus of the University of Maine at Orono.

Dr. James S. Leamon, Associate Professor of History at Bates College, is chairman for the series and will preside over discussion panels at each location.

The afternoon session adjourned to the Treadway-Samoset Resort for a buffet luncheon and illustrated

lecture, "Bodwell Blue: A History of the Vinalhaven Granite Industry," by Dr. Roger L. Grindle, Chairman of the Social Science Division of the University of Maine at Fort Kent, and author of *Quarry and Kiln: The Story of Maine's Lime Industry*. Announcement was also made by Roger C. Taylor, Chairman of the Publications Committee, of the winner of the Society's seventh annual Prize Essay Contest. This year's winner was Mr. Charles F. Hamblen of Norwichtown, Connecticut, for his essay, "A Pioneer Family: The Richardsons of Mount Desert," which appears in this issue of the *Quarterly*.

BICENTENNIAL RECEPTION

The Society marked the Bicentennial Fourth of July by hosting an afternoon reception, attended by approximately 200 members and guests. In honor of the occasion, tours were provided through the Wadsworth-Longfellow House, and the first of a three part exhibit of autograph letters of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence was on display. The Signers Collection, one of only thirty-six complete sets known to exist, is part of the magnificent collection of autograph manuscripts bequeathed to the Society in 1896 by Dr. John Samuel Hill Fogg, a native of Eliot, Maine.

Through the courtesy of the National Society of Colonial Dames in the State of Maine, those attending the reception also had the opportunity to view an interesting diorama of "The Tate House and the Mast Trade of 1773." The diorama attracted much attention, and the Society extends its gratitude to members of the Society of Colonial Dames for having kindly shared it with us.

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Please permit me to present my third and final report as President of the Maine Historical Society, at this our 154th Annual Meeting. I have enjoyed being President during the past three years, and have found the position interesting. I have learned a lot, and met many people dedicated to the History of Maine. It is a genuine satisfaction to meet with so many people who know so much about Maine's past and present.

The efficient work of Gerald E. Morris and his staff makes the position a joy. The responsibilities and problems of the President are kept at a minimum. We still have a financial problem, but thankfully it hasn't reached the crisis stage. The Society manages to attract many gifts which are always most welcome and useful. I hope each of you will put the Society high on your list of priorities for giving, and not forget to encourage your friends and others to become members. Since each of you is well aware of the financial situation of this Society and of similar organizations, I won't take your time reciting the grim story, other than to say that we have eliminated a job and a half from our payroll in order to reduce our deficit. Let us all hope that costs will level off so that such drastic action will not have to be taken again. Such steps curtail our services to the people of Maine and to the cause of Maine history. There are, however, certain beneficial effects to a deficit budget. It stimulates some thinking about what we are trying to do, and poses the question of whether what we are doing is really worthwhile. Having been President of this Society for three years I will pose with some authority over the question.

What we are doing and what we should do is collect and preserve manuscripts, papers, and books on Maine history, and make them available to all who will use them

with respect and care. This is not an easy task; it isn't always easy to know what should be collected and kept, what thrown away, and what given to some other institution. Space requirements demand that priorities be set. Our Collections Committee has done an excellent job in dealing with these murky problems. As a result we have the greatest collection of non-governmental manuscripts on Maine history anywhere, which is constantly being used by scholars and other researchers. The books and articles which appear in scholarly journals, magazines, and newspapers based on our collections certainly contribute to the public good and understanding. Without them we would be much the poorer. Truth is always difficult to determine, but without the likes of the Maine Historical Society it would seldom be seen.

Our Publications Committee renders equally good service. We continue to publish the *Quarterly* which has been well received, and contains outstanding articles on Maine history. Our bibliographical series has made a significant contribution. The latest was William C. Jordan's *Civil War Bibliography*. I'm sure you found his free and easy comments as valuable and entertaining as I did. Books published during the past year were: Gordon Kershaw's *Kennebec Proprietors; Maine Province and Court Records*, Volume 6; and a reprint of George Folsom's *History of Saco and Biddeford*.

The second volume of Dr. Frances Wiggin's important and authoritative work on *Maine Composers and their Music* will soon be forthcoming. One of our Bicentennial projects will be *An Historical Atlas for the State of Maine*. By special arrangement with the Maine Bicentennial Commission, the *Atlas* will be enlarged and reprinted in coming years, for which we can be very thankful.

Besides collecting and publishing, the library continues to serve ever increasing numbers of people, and we held

a special meeting on October 17 of last year to commemorate the burning of Falmouth, with an address by William C. Jordan. Various other committees served the Society in such matters as finances, arrangements, and membership.

A special committee was appointed this year to revise the Bylaws. The Committee, under the chairmanship of Martial Maling, worked long and hard to bring the Bylaws up to date by recognizing the professional operation of the Society. This professionalization has now come to full fruition, is working well, and ought to be accommodated in the Bylaws. The new Bylaws will be presented for your consideration later today, with the recommendation of the Standing Committee that you adopt them.

I would now like to indulge in a little bragging about the Society, which was nationally recognized last fall. The honor of an award was given the Society by the American Association of State and Local History. The Award of Merit was made to the Maine Historical Society "For its expanded and highly effective programs in publications and manuscripts." The nomination for this award was prepared by Elizabeth Ring. Along with congratulating ourselves we can praise our Director, Gerald Morris, and all the members of the Publications and Collections Committee. William T. Alderson, Director of the American Association for State and Local History wrote: "My congratulations to you on this much deserved recognition of a major contribution in the field of State and Local History." I believe we can all agree that, even if we have troubles and frustrations from time to time, we can take solace in the worthy work we do, and its nice to get recognition for it once in a while.

The officers, members of the Standing Committee, Director, and staff are always glad to hear from each of

you, and to see you at the Society's headquarters. Our job is to serve you. The more we participate in the functions of the Society, the stronger it is. Please let me thank each of you and the members of the Standing Committee over the past three years for the honor of being President of the Maine Historical Society.

THE TREASURER'S REPORT

The annual audited financial report for the year ended March 31, 1976 shows an operating deficit of \$10,403. Due to bequests and other non-operating income, however, total assets of the Society did increase slightly from \$705,661 to \$712, 437.

Assets consisted of:

Cash	13,963
Savings Accounts	40,031
Investments	605,718
Due from Operating Funds	20,496
Land, Buildings & Equipment	1
Deferred Debits-Bldg. Addition	32,228
	<hr/>
	\$712,437

Current Liabilities were:

Accounts Payable	\$ 5,741
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Six thousand dollars was paid on the new Manuscript Stacks addition, so the debt has been reduced from the original \$40,000 to \$30,997. There is still a balance of \$3,134 in the 150th Anniversary Fund and the Finance Committee, with the approval of the Standing Committee, has voted to further reduce the note balance by this amount.

The Longfellow House was budgeted to be self-supporting and ended the year only \$120 short of a break-even position.

A dues increase, expected to bring in an additional \$3,000, together with salary savings from the recent elimination of one and one-half positions should decrease the deficit in the current year. However, the Finance Committee, aware of the inflationary pressures that plague us all, but reluctant to cut services further unless absolutely necessary, is accepting the probability of a \$6,465 deficit in budgeting for fiscal 1976-77.

There seems to be no reason to expect the inflationary trend will ease significantly in the next few years. Therefore the Society must find means of increasing operating income or must face up to eliminating services, or both. Otherwise we will soon find ourselves invading principal and further reducing investment income, a dilemma faced by so many institutions of our type.

MAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE
for the years ended March 31, 1976, 1975, and 1974

	1976	1975	1974
Income:			
Interest and dividends	\$ 31,580	\$ 32,430	\$ 31,683
Dues	17,100	13,999	12,588
Gifts	5,593	2,564	3,011
Grants	27,900	27,600	29,200
Longfellow House	9,665	6,529	6,730
Other	405	337	—
	<hr/> 92,243	<hr/> 83,459	<hr/> 83,212
Expenses:			
Salaries (including pension)	56,137	56,332	55,579
Insurance	3,029	2,946	1,246
Utilities	3,983	2,974	1,070
Repairs	1,990	596	3,759
Supplies	2,622	3,091	2,291
Payroll taxes	3,844	3,486	3,373
Telephone	1,369	1,300	896
Newsletter and printing	7,157	6,663	6,670
Postage and mailing service	2,256	1,924	1,820
Professional services	2,443	3,440	2,802
Custodian fee	2,394	2,174	2,350
Equipment rental	—	1,012	3,573
Interest	2,652	—	—
Miscellaneous	897	1,447	1,726
Equipment purchased	1,678	—	2,494
Longfellow House:			
Salaries	5,276	4,462	3,287
Repairs	584	746	421
Other	4,070	2,682	3,366
	<hr/> 102,381	<hr/> 95,275	<hr/> 96,723
Transfers to principal	265	265	245
Excess (deficiency) of income over expenses and transfers	<hr/> \$(10,403)	<hr/> \$(12,081)	<hr/> \$(13,756)

THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

At first glance one gets the impression that no reductions were implemented last year since the overall expenditures rose by \$7,106 to a new high of \$102,381. The two economy measures announced last year were imposed, however. Last fall the Society Staff was reduced by one and a half positions. Since this was not fully effective until October 31, 1975 (and the fiscal year runs from April 1 to March 31) the financial results will not show up on the expense ledger until next year. Even at that, as a percentage of operating costs, total salaries was down to 54.83% from 59.13% for last year. Also on the expense side, the percentage of deficit (as a percentage of operating costs) continues to decline: 13.97% in 1974, 12.41% in 1975, and 9.9% in 1976. Our goal, as you may recall from last year, is to operate at no greater than a 5% or 6% deficit. We may get closer to that goal next year, barring some catastrophe. It becomes increasingly difficult since new permanent expenses keep appearing — this year, for example, an added \$1,000 per year for unemployment payments and \$2,000 interest on our bank note for the Nichols Hall project, and a threefold increase in utilities in three years. These amounts may seem petty in the real world of finance, but they are not inconsequential for the non-profit, private institution when price is not related to product.

On the income side it will be seen that our economy measure of raising dues from \$10.00 to \$15.00 had an immediate effect. As a component of income, money received from dues moved from 16.77% in 1975 to 18.53% in 1976; as a component of cost-of-operation dues moved from 14.69% in 1975 to 16.70% in 1976. Without the dues increase in January the deficit for 1976 would have been 12.94% (somewhat higher than last year). So, at least something worked. Thanks to the generosity of our

MHS membership, gift contributions were up markedly this year, as were receipts from the Wadsworth-Longfellow House.

The departure of Miss Hannah Adams on October 31, 1975, has left the Society without a curator-registrar since that time. The absence of a full-time staff member to oversee the museum collection is a great handicap which, we hope, can be overcome sometime in the near future.

Since Miss Adams also supervised the Wadsworth-Longfellow House during the summer season, it has been necessary to assign that responsibility to Mrs. Julie Irving, who recently rejoined the staff upon the departure of Miss Rae Romano who left to get married. Since Mrs. Irving is primarily responsible for doing clerical work for the Cataloger and the Curator of Manuscripts, this job-doubling has had a serious domino effect on other operations of the library. Cataloging time is diminished also by the use of the Cataloger half-time as Reference Librarian, as part of the economy move. This severe blow to the cataloging division cannot be allowed to continue for long without accumulating a serious backlog of uncataloged materials.

Thanks to the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. J. Weston Walch of Portland and the efforts and contributions of Mr. Bruce Publicover of Cape Elizabeth, electronic surveillance systems have been installed this year in both the Society Building and the Wadsworth-Longfellow House. No doubt this is one of the most important steps taken by the Society in years. An effective security system for MHS has become increasingly urgent with each passing year. The necessity for a few minor alterations in the Wadsworth-Longfellow House due to the alarm system presented an admirable excuse to refurbish the entrance hallway which was beginning to look a bit dismal and neglected. An exact copy of the wallpaper was manufactured by Waterhouse in Boston, a sumptuous new

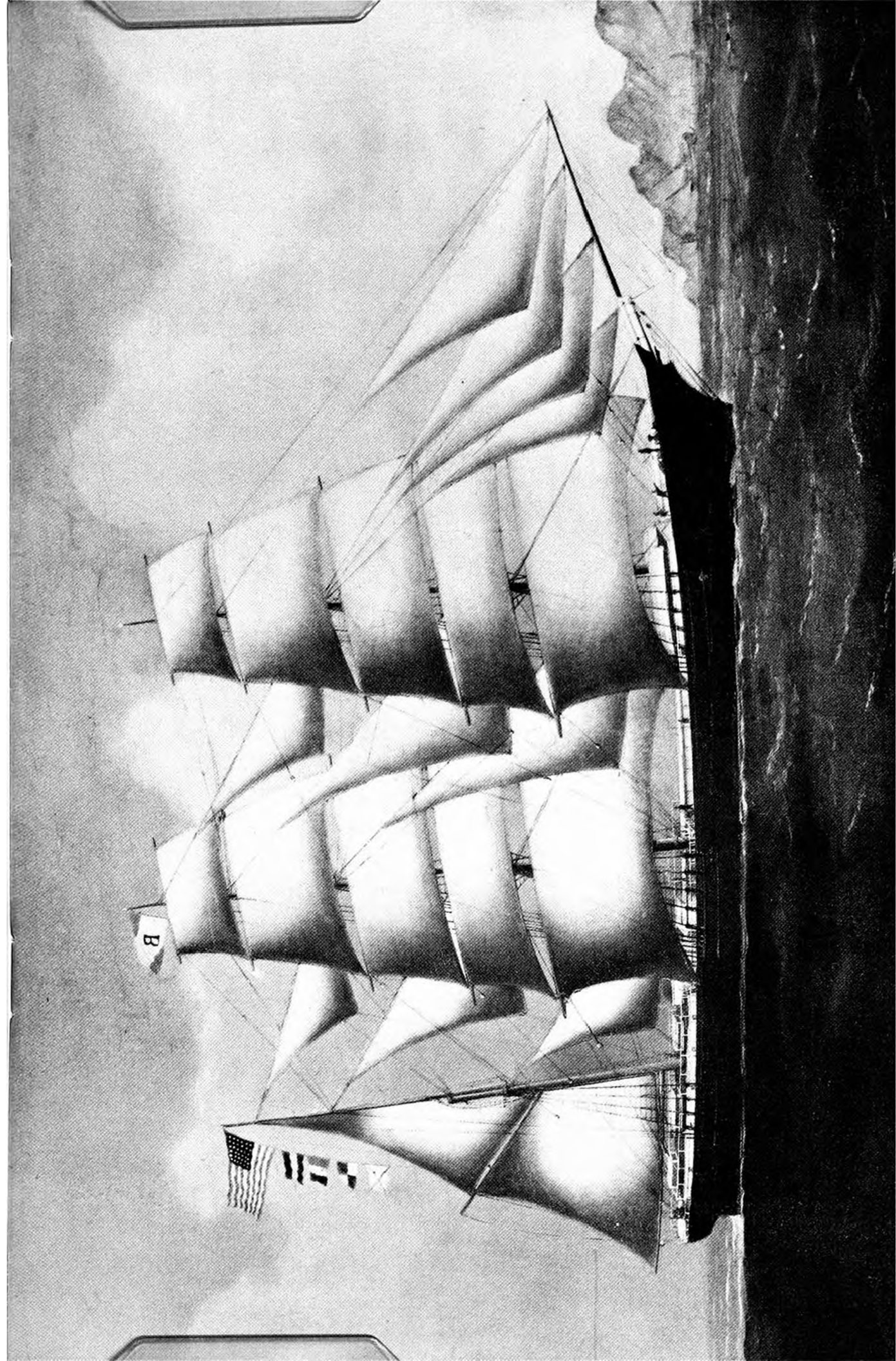
stairway carpet was installed and lengths cut for the hallway. The woodwork was cleaned and restored to its original clear color. The transformation is dramatic indeed.

The fourth biennial course in Manuscripts Management and Conservation in cooperation with Bates College was conducted last spring by Tom Gaffney, Curator of Manuscripts, April 28 June 6. Miss Margaret Cook and Mr. Ray Peabody, students in the program, proved a credit to Bates.

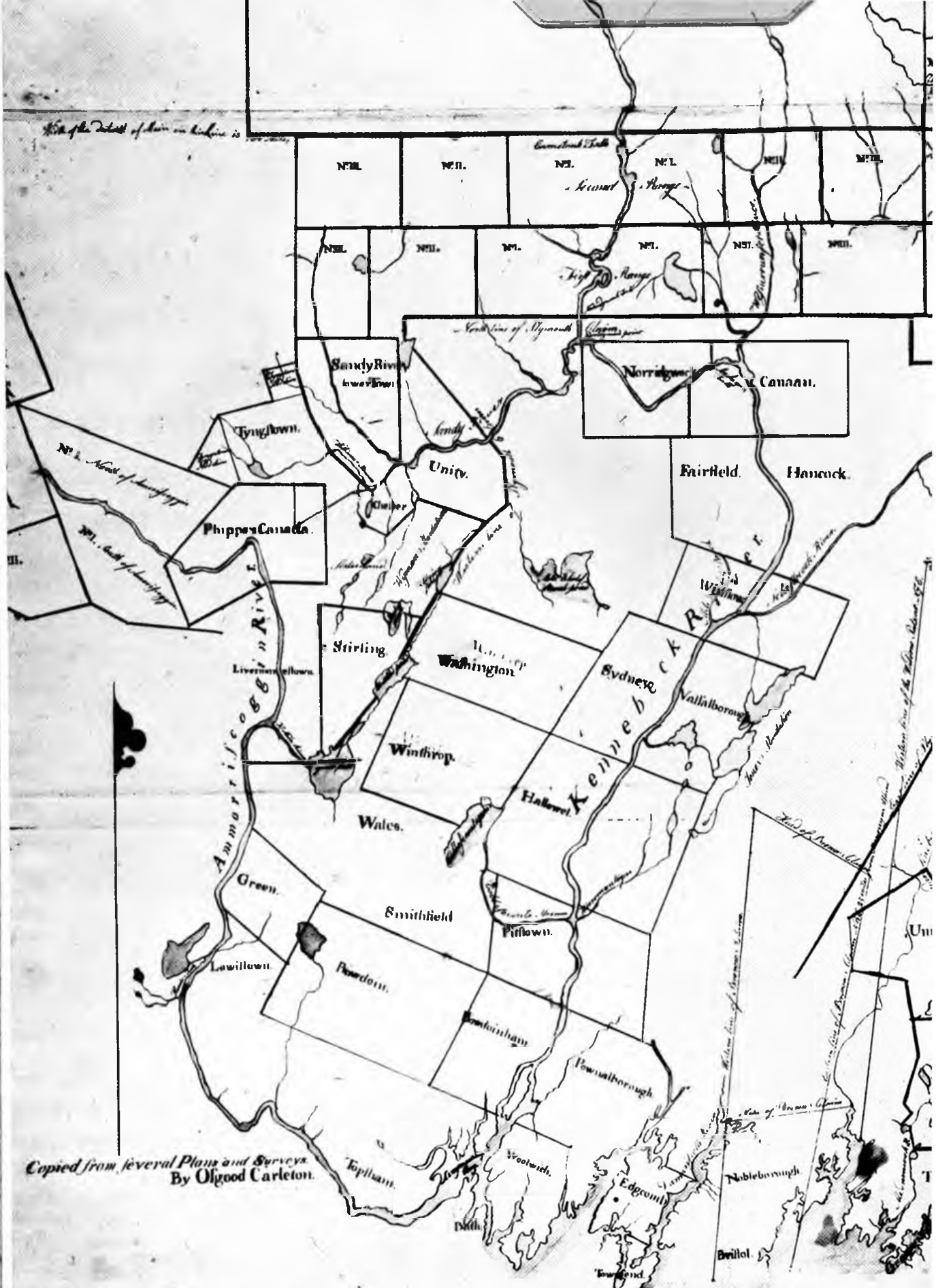
Although we frequently despair of the number of Maine paintings, manuscripts, artifacts and books which leave the State each year, the collections of the Maine Historical Society are steadily enriched by the alertness and generosity of its members and friends. The past year is no exception. One can only hope to give highlights here from the Accession Record which runs 32 pages.

In November, Mr. Stephen Wheatland of Sorrento, Maine, presented a colorful oil painting of the "*Charles G. Rice*, A. W. Smart, Commander, sailing into the port of Hong Kong, January 12, 1883" by an unknown Chinese artist. A reproduction of the painting is shown on page 13. The bark was built in Yarmouth, Maine, in 1879, and at the time the portrait was painted the vessel was owned by James Bean & O. of Portland. Although the Society owns a number of fine ship portraits, this is the very first in this genre. At the same time, Mr. Wheatland also donated twelve documents relating to the British forces at Castine, 1779-1781.

Mrs. Lawrence M. C. Smith of Freeport presented an extraordinarily fine manuscript map (ca. 1792) of the Kennebec showing the arrangement of towns along the river, and encompassing an area laying between Topsham and Thomaston in the south to, and including, Bingham's Million Acres in the north, copied from several plans and



With the intent of showing the line is



Copied from several Plans and Surveys.
By Olgood Carleton.

A great number of Blanks & Points of Land omitted.

Scale of Miles.

surveys by Osgood Carleton. A detail from the map is reproduced on page 14. Accompanying the map was an autograph letter by Osgood Carleton, dated March 27, 1795, to Colonel Moses Little, offering to draw the famous map of the District of Maine. Mrs. Smith has also presented the Society with the extremely rare, and much sought, Stokes' *Iconography of Manhattan Island, 1498-1909*, in six volumes (New York, 1915-1928). This classic takes an immediate place as one of the great treasures in our cartographical collection. Owing to the age of the Maine Historical Society, its collections on the early documentary history of New York are by far the largest and richest in the state. In May of last year, Mr. William C. Pierce of New York presented the Revolutionary war diary and orderly book (6 volumes, 1753-1834) of Archelaus Lewis of Stroudwater, who, as a private in Capt. John Bartlett's Company of Portland, answered the alarm of April 19, 1775, and rose to the rank of first lieutenant while serving in the regiment of Colonel Joseph Vose. Another fine Revolutionary war item, purchased by the Society this year, was a manuscript letter by William Rand, dated July 30, 1778, telling of the British attack on Naskeag (Brooklin) on July 20, 1778.

Miss Marion P. Dana of Portland gave the Society a collection of ten autograph letters, including Cyrus Hamlin, James G. Blaine, and John Greenleaf Whittier. Mrs. Frank W. P. Bailey of Portland presented 15 autograph letters of Kenneth Roberts.

Mr. Donald K. Saunders of Westbrook donated two important collections and a logbook (1862-1863) of the Bark *Eliza White* of Portland. The two collections comprise the George Frost Robinson papers, 1842-1853, 72 pieces. These papers include correspondence, charter agreements, disbursement accounts, etc. of George F. Robinson of Brunswick, Maine, owner of the Brig *Porpoise*, commanded by Cyrus Libby of Scarborough. This vessel

was seized by the U.S.S. *Raritan* and charged with having been engaged in the slave trade between Africa and Rio de Janeiro. The other collection contains diplomatic papers (134 pieces, 1862-1870) of Marquis de Lafayette Lane of Portland, Maine, U.S. Consul to Vera Cruz, Mexico, with comments on the unsettled conditions in Mexico, Emperor Maximilian, and political matters in Maine.

Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr. of Augusta presented a ledger with very rare information, indeed. The ledger (1853-1904) belonged to Alexander Curtis Carrier of Harpswell, Maine, ship carver and draftsman. The ledger contains itemizations for carvings, gildings, and other decorative work on vessels which include: the bark *B. Sewall*, the brigs *Cascatella*, *Pomona*, *Rivulet*, and *Rocky Glen*; the ships *Forest Oak*, *Priscilla*, and *St. Paul*, the steamer *H. S. Hagar*, and the U.S. Cutter *C. Huston*.

An immense collection came to the Society last year from the Sheriff of Cumberland County, Richard Thayer. This collection consists of 81 volumes plus approximately 40 linear feet of loose documents covering the activities of the Cumberland County Sheriff's office, 1798-1956. These records contain material which will be of unique help to researchers in many areas, for example, the identification of itinerant craftsmen, the economic history of Portland during the War of 1812, etc.

The major book purchase this year was a complete set (in reprint) of Reuben Gold Thwaites monumental *Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents, 1610-1791* (75 volumes in 36). Until now the Society has only had the abridgement of this essential documentary source for Maine history. In addition, a copy of the long out-of-print, but indispensable, Charles O. Paullin's *Atlas of the Historical Geography of the United States* was finally located and purchased.

Tribute must be paid to many members of the Society who, day after day, year after year, contribute to the col-

lections of the Society, with an accumulative impact which is truly impressive. Among these loyal regular contributors are: Mr. Charles F. Adams of Auburn, Mr. Richard F. Dole of South Portland, Dr. John E. Frost of New York, Mrs. Sarah Bridge Graves of Saco, Mr. William B. Jordan, Jr. of Portland, Mr. & Mrs. Louis Korn of Saco, Mrs. William J. Murphy of Gorham, Mr. Donald L. Philbrick of Portland, Mr. Roger B. Ray of Cape Elizabeth, Mr. Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr. of Augusta and Mr. Gary Woolson of Hampden Highlands.

NEW MEMBERS

FROM MAINE *Auburn:* Mrs. Eugene S. Ashton
Bangor: Mr. Alan Cutter *Camden:* Mr. David G. Smith
Cape Elizabeth: Mr. Victor L. Delano, Mrs. Pamela W. Hawkes
Cumberland Center: Mrs. Phyllis R. Sweetser
Eustis: Mr. Thomas MacDonald *Fairfield:* Mr. Ray W. Tobey
Falmouth: Mr. Edgar R. C. Ward *Kittery:* Mrs. Mara F. Marshall
Lisbon Falls: Mr. Wilford E. Barr
Livermore Falls: Mr. W. Dennis Stires *North New Portland:* Mr. Steven R. Pinkham
North Sebago: Mr. Michael Foye
Old Orchard Beach: Mr. Michael Boisvert, Mr. Roger P. Remillard
Orono: Mr. Charles A. Scontras
Oxford: Mr. John R. Crumpton, Jr. *Peaks Island:* Mr. Steven A. Pedersen
Portland: Mrs. Mae R. Glassford, Ms. Corinne L. Howe, Miss Andrea F. MacLean, Mr. Robert Shield, Mrs. Marilyn Yannantuono
Rockland: Mr. C. Gardner Lane, Jr. *Rumford Center:* Mr. William N. Weston
Scarborough: Ms. Cynthia Wentworth
Sebago Lake: Mr. Dana E. Edgecomb
South Portland: Mr. Albert G. Ayre, Mrs. Marcia Nauratil
South Windham: Ms. Judi Severance
Spruce Head: Mr. George M. Ingram III
Stockton Springs: Ms. Aimee B. MacEwen
Westbrook:

Mrs. Pearl M. Doughty, Ms. Barbara D. Jensen *West Buxton*: Mr. William H. Cook *West Falmouth*: Dr. C. W. Little *York*: Mr. Neil Rolde.

Other States *CONNECTICUT* *Weathersfield*: Mrs. Barbara V Gent *MASSACHUSETTS* *Whitman*: Mr. John F. Myers *NEW HAMPSHIRE* *Bradford*: Mr. Rexford Sherman *OHIO* *Vandalia*: Mr. Harley C. Witham.

LIFE MEMBERS

Mr. Joseph W. P. Frost
Eliot, Maine

Lt. Col. Wilbar M. Hoxie
Plaistow, New Hampshire

Mr. George L. Smyth
Portland, Maine

NEW CORPORATE MEMBERS

International Marine Publishing Company
Camden, Maine

Mechanics' Savings Bank
Auburn, Maine

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Miss Mildred G. Burrage, Wiscasset
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Mr. & Mrs. William E. Clark, Falmouth
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Mrs. Todd Fischer, Roslyn, Long Island, New York

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Mr. Stephen Laurent, Intervale, New Hampshire
Mr. Harold M. Lawrence, Portland
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